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## **DISTANCE LEARNING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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Distance learning is a useful tool nowadays. It allows the learner to improve his/her English as well as enables the teacher to use authentic language resources more widely.

Relevance of the research is conditioned by the fact that the specifics of distance learning of foreign languages at higher educational establishments in Ukraine still requires further development and improvement.

Distance learning technologies have been studied by N. Hockly, H. Dudeney, N. Mayer, O. Andreyev, Ye. Dmytriyeva, V. Kukharenko, V. Svyrydiuk, Yu. Horvyts, N. Mulina, Ye. Polat, A. Khutorsky and others.

The objective of the research is to determine specifics of distance learning of foreign languages at higher educational establishments in Ukraine and develop some recommendations on raising the level of its quality.

Advantages of distance learning are: its flexibility, modular structure, opportunity of parallel work with a large number of learners, effectivity, technical support, availability for everyone, international nature, etc.

Distance learning of foreign languages facilitates updating the content of the study and methods of teaching and learning a foreign language. It is a valuable tool in choosing the best forms of work for every learner and grants individualization of the learning process. It promotes life-long learning and international exchange.

However, it should be taken into account that in learning a foreign language communication is vitally important. That's why implementation of distance learning courses at universities and colleges should not substitute auditory classes but supplement them. Distance learning is very helpful in organizing self-study of the students.

Specifics of distance learning of foreign languages is that it does not teach basics of science, it facilitates developing skills in the main speech activities: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Thus, some recommendations to distance courses for learning English have been developed.

Every distance course for learning any foreign language should contain different kinds of tasks for the development speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

The course should contain methodical recommendations and explanation of the course structure and the best way of working with the course. The learner should also have links and recommendations to available resources as well as information about supplementary courses developed by the native speakers.

The course should implement different ways of interaction: learner – content, learner – teacher, teacher – a group of learners, learner – learner and learner – a group of learners. Group work is very important and makes learners feel more freely to communicate with each other and solve common tasks.

The authors of the distance learning courses should study foreign experience in developing distance courses for learning English. They should develop tasks for their courses in accordance with the tasks format of international examinations (TOEFL, IELTS, FCE, TKT etc). This will help the learner prepare for passing such examinations in the future.

The interdisciplinary ties should be beneficially used in the distance learning courses. The course should aim at formation of the elements of global thinking, promoting the dialogue of cultures.

It should also motivate the learner to cognitive activities and the need to use a foreign language in real communication. This will help the learner in improving his/her communication culture.

Authentic materials should be widely used in developing skills in different types of reading, listening comprehension skills on the basis of adapted and authentic audio- and video materials, translation and interpretation skills, skills in abstracts writing and summarizing professional and scientific articles.

The distance courses for learning foreign languages should help the learner in improvement of dialogue, monologue and polylogue skills, as well as expanding of active and passive vocabulary in professional and scientific fields.

The conclusion can be made that distance courses for learning foreign languages should help learners acquire the skills they need to be successful.

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